

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claims 2-5 are allowed and that Claim 7 would be allowable if written in proper independent form. Applicants have accordingly amended Claim 7.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,693,859 ("Takase et al"). In view of the cancellation of Claim 6, Applicants respectfully submit that they have traversed this rejection.

Objection

Claim 7 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but is indicated as allowable if rewritten in proper independent form. Applicants have accordingly amended Claim 7 to incorporate the limitations of canceled Claim 6, upon which it was dependent. Claim 7 thus remains fully supported in the specification.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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